

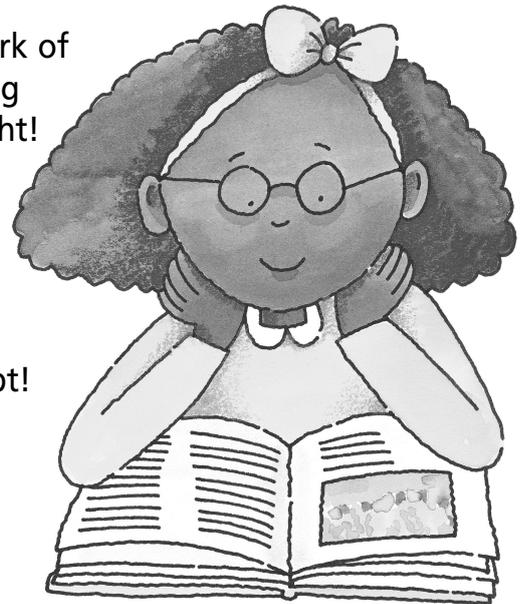
Online Information

The Mystery on the Great Wall of China

Fascinating Facts

China

- The People's Republic of China is the fourth largest country in the world. Which countries are larger than China? The largest country in the world is Russia, followed by Canada and the United States.
- China has the highest population of any country in the world. More than one billion people live there!
- The giant panda is found only in southwestern China. The Chinese love the animals dearly and call them "large bear-cats." Giant pandas are about as big as a stick of butter when they are born!
- The Chinese invented many things that we use today! The four most important inventions from China were papermaking, printing, gunpowder, and the compass.
- A Chinese emperor named Shi Huang-Ti built a network of 270 palaces during his reign. He was so afraid of being murdered that he slept in a different palace every night!
- The Great Wall of China stretches for 4,160 miles across the country. It's about 20 feet wide and 26 feet high. It was built to keep out invading armies.
- There are more than 40,000 characters in Chinese script!
- Three of the world's longest rivers begin in China!



Online Book Club

The Mystery on the Great Wall of China

Talk About It!

1. Have you ever eaten a fortune cookie? Do you remember what was written on the piece of paper inside?
2. Grant mentioned that the man following him had a scar over his eyebrow. What are some other things about a person that you might notice in order to recognize him or her again?
3. Have you ever seen or used an abacus? If so, did you think it was a smart way to solve math problems?
4. When you read that Grant was not going to return the map as he was instructed in the fortune cookie note, did you think that was a good idea or a bad idea? Why?
5. Even though Grant and Christina and Li and Cong were from different countries, they became fast friends. What things do kids all over the world have in common?
6. Do you have the “travel bug” like Christina and Mimi? If so, where would you like to visit?
7. What does it mean to have “butterflies in your stomach?” Why did Christina feel them when Grant was missing?
8. Why were all the pockets in Grant’s clothing turned inside out when Christina found him sleeping on the train?
9. The Great Wall of China is the world’s longest man-made structure—almost 4,000 miles long! How would you prefer to see it—fly over it in an airplane or walk along it? Why?
10. If you wrote your own “real kids/real places” international mystery, what country would you choose for the setting? Why?

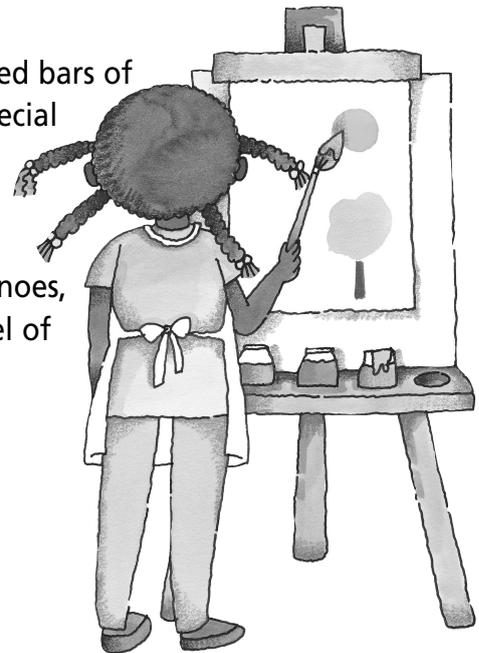


Online Book Club

The Mystery on the Great Wall of China

Bring It To Life!

1. Ask a volunteer to draw a map of China on a large piece of poster board. Do you remember when Papa said that China covers 50 degrees of latitude? On a globe or map of the world, find China and identify its latitudes. Draw them on your China map. Then, mark the capital city of Beijing with a red star. Finally, draw the Great Wall on your map.
2. Draw a fireworks display with crayons or markers! Make it colorful and creative—remember, the Chinese love fireworks!
3. Enjoy a Chinese feast! Ask parents to volunteer to bring in Chinese food. You can ask for egg rolls, lo mein, fried rice, a stir-fry dish with meat and vegetables, dim sum—whatever you like! Make sure you get some green tea to drink, and fortune cookies for dessert.
4. Make your own “fortune cookies.” First, cut some strips of paper and write fortunes on them. Next, cut pieces of paper into squares that are four inches wide by four inches long. Fold the squares into triangles. Put the fortunes inside them. You can tape or glue the sides of your fortune cookie. Pass them around the room and see who gets each fortune!
5. Create some good luck charms of your own. Bring in colored bars of soap. Carve animals out of the soap to create your own special charms!
6. Build the Great Wall of China! Find a large piece of cardboard. Use modeling clay, popsicle sticks, blocks, dominoes, Legos®, or whatever else you can think of to build a model of the Great Wall. Don't forget to add the watchtowers, and maybe a few tourists walking around!



Online Quiz

Mystery at The Great Wall of China

Fact or Fiction?

Write Fact or Fiction next to each question below.

- _____ 1. Papa, Mimi, Christina, and Grant arrived in China on Papa's plane, The Mystery Girl.
- _____ 2. China is a small country.
- _____ 3. Camels live in the deserts of China.
- _____ 4. The mysterious man spoke to Grant while he was disguised under the dragon's head in the parade.
- _____ 5. The Chinese believe that dragons bring good luck and ward off evil spirits.
- _____ 6. Grant was very happy to learn that Papa, Mimi and the kids were going to Hong Kong.
- _____ 7. Many of Mimi's mystery books are printed in Hong Kong.
- _____ 8. The mysterious man saw the children at the Air China counter in the Hong Kong airport and chased them through the airport terminal.
- _____ 9. Papa got very sick in China and had to stay in the hotel room while Mimi took the children to visit the Great Wall.
- _____ 10. An American named Bob Scott took an entire year to walk the length of the Great Wall and ate chocolate chip cookies along the way.

